

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 through 21 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, and 13 are the only independent claims present in the application.

Claims 1 through 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over newly cited U.S. Patent No. 5,812,278 (Toyoda et al.) The rejection respectfully is traversed.

Each of Claims 1, 7 and 13 generally recites that image data obtained by reading an original image and image data received from an external unit are input in an image input job. Each of Claims 1, 7 and 13 also generally recites that a subsequent image input job is started after a preceding image input job is finished, but before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.

The Toyoda et al. patent does not disclose or suggest either of these features. Instead, the Toyoda et al. patent is directed to an image communicating method, in which image data received via a facsimile machine, for example, is reformatted into an electronic mail format with paper size specifications. This electronic mail is then sent, via a LAN, to a receiving side that reformats the electronic mail data into reproduced image data for printing. If the receiving apparatus cannot process the attached paper size specifications, the image data is modified to produce adjusted image data that the receiving apparatus can use.

The Office Action states, "independently control scanner 25 and printer 32 of Fig. 4, (see col. 25-20), and after a preceding image input job is finished starts a subsequent

image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.” However, Applicant asserts that the Toyota et al. patent does not teach or suggest that a subsequent image input job is started after a preceding image input job is finished, but before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished, as generally recited in Claims 1, 7, and 13. Moreover, even if the Toyota et al. patent discloses independent control of the scanner and the printer, there is still no disclosure or suggestion of the foregoing feature.

Applicant further asserts that the Toyota et al. patent does not disclose or suggest that image data obtained by reading an original image and image data received from an external unit are input in the image input job, as generally recited in Claims 1, 7 and 13. Indeed, the Office Action does not even mention this feature.

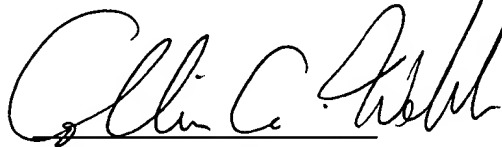
In light of the foregoing, Applicant suggests that the Toyota et al. patent fails to teach or suggest all of the features of the independent claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Applicant submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 for the reasons discussed above. The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable for the same reasons and because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention. Individual consideration of each dependent claim is requested.

Applicant submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the February 12, 2003, Office Action, and issuance of an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Collin A. Webb", written over a horizontal line.

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